

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 240695

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240695

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 240695 ACTION ROME ADDIS ABABA ASMARA
JIDDA KHARTOUM KUWAIT INFO GENEVA 9 OCT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240695

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR

REF: (A) ROME 14382 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 238303 (NOTAL),
(C) ROME 14542 (NOTAL)

1. FOR ROME: EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ASK MFA TO INFORM ELF
GROUP THAT USG IS PREPARED TO HAVE USG REP MEET AT ONCE
WITH IT IN ROME OR KHARTOUM. EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO INFORM
MFA, FOR ITS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION ONLY, OF INSTRUCTIONS
US REP WILL BE UNDER AT MEETING, AS SET FORTH BELOW.

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2. FOR ROME AND KHARTOUM: DEPARTMENT LEAVES SELECTION OF US REP TO EMBASSY BUT SUGGESTS FOR CONSIDERATION DCM OR POLITICAL COUNSELOR ACCOMPANIED BY ONE JUNIOR OFFICER. EMBASSY OFFICER SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT ELF GROUP HAS TO SAY AND SHOULD STRICTLY CONFINE HIS OWN ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING:

(A) PROVIDE COPIES OF MESSAGES PREPARED BY CAPTIVES' FAMILIES IN MID-SEPTEMBER; (STATE 225077 CONTAINING MESSAGE TEXTS BEING REPEATED TO EMBASSY ROME);

(B) STATE THAT SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY FAMILIES IN

THOSE MESSAGES ARE BROADLY SHARED BY AMERICAN PUBLIC, WHICH IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING CASE IN MEDIA;

(C) STATE THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC IS DEMONSTRATING THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS AND IN OTHER WAYS INCREASING IMPATIENCE AND ANTAGONISM TOWARD THE ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE GROUPS BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTINUED HOLDING OF AND THREATS TO THE FOUR INNOCENT AMERICAN HOSTAGES;

(D) STATE THAT IN LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS AND OF THE HUMANITARIAN IMPULSES WHICH WE ARE CONFIDENT THE ELF SHARES, CAPTIVES SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASED IN INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED;

(E) STATE THAT HE IS AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THE LOGISTICAL ASPECTS OF SUCH AN UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE;

(F) IF THE ELF GROUP ASKS HIM TO CONVEY A MESSAGE TO HIS GOVERNMENT, HE SHOULD AGREE TO DO SO; AND

(G) IF THE ELF GROUP SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF US TERRORISM POLICIES OR INQUIRES REGARDING USG'S REACTION TO ABDUCTORS' EARLIER-REPORTED DEMANDS, HE SHOULD STATE THE THE USG'S FIRM REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE OR BARGAIN WITH ABDUCTORS OF AMERICANS ABROAD IS WELL KNOWN, AND REITERATE THAT IT IS IN INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED THAT THE FOUR INNOCENT AMERICAN CITIZENS BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED.
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3. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO MODIFY OR IN ANY WAY EXCEED ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS IN MEETING WITH ELF REPRESENTATIVES. ANY AND ALL SUBSEQUENT STEPS IN THIS REGARD MUST BE SPECIFICALLY CLEARED IN DETAIL BY THE DEPARTMENT.

4. FOR ADDIS: EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INFORM EPMG OF PLANNED

MEETING AND OF ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS UNDER WHICH US REP WILL ACT. EPMG SHOULD FURTHER BE ADVISED THAT EMBASSY WILL OF COURSE BRIEF EPMG AS SOON AS REPORT OF MEETING IS RECEIVED. DEPARTMENT LEAVES IT TO EMBASSY TO HANDLE MATTER WITH EPMG IN MANNER BEST CALCULATED TO SECURE ITS ACCEPTANCE OF USG DECISION TO AGREE TO DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH ELF GROUP. BASIC POINTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE:

(A) ELF HAS THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY GOVERNMENT DEMANDED SUCH TALKS AS CONDITION OF PROGRESS TOWARD LIBERATION OF HOSTAGES;

(B) ELF HAS FURTHER INDICATED EXECUTION OF HOSTAGES HAS BEEN POSTPONED RATHER THAN RESCINDED AND USG REPLY IS

DESIRED QUOTE PRIOR TO OCTOBER 10 END QUOTE

(C) US REP'S STATEMENTS AT MEETING WILL BE STRICTLY CONFINED TO ABOVE POINTS;

(D) WE HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT MEETING WILL BE PRODUCTIVE AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES RESTS WITH THE EPMG.

5. FOR KHARTOUM, JIDDA AND KUWAIT: EMBASSIES SHOULD SIMILARLY INFORM THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS OF IMPENDING MEETING WITH ELF GROUP. IN SO DOING EMBASSIES SHOULD EMPHASIZE OUR APPRECIATION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS' EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HOSTAGES' RELEASE, OUR UNCERTAINTY WHETHER PLANNED MEETING WILL HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE RESULT, AND OUR HOPE THEREFORE THAT GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS ON HOSTAGES' BEHALF. EMBASSIES SHOULD PROMISE TO BRIEF GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIVING REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING. KISSINGER UNQTE.

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